

ALL OFF FOR SANTIAGO.

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escapes from on the opposite shore, and the town, at the head of the harbor. Under the guns of Blanca it is supposed Cervantes defeated. The reports of the bombardment of May 31 mention a battery on Gorda Point, the point on the north side of the harbor, which Capt. Handle said was on Gasset Point. It is hardly probable that any of these batteries mounts formidable guns. The town is isolated from the mainland by western bays by rugged mountains, and communication with Havana, Cienfuegos, and other towns has heretofore been bad by water. With the insurgents encamped in the hills around the town, the harbor, the harbor, the harbor, 20,000 people in the town and its suburbs were cut off from the outer world even more completely than are the people of Havana, for the Cuban capital open to traffic. Santiago de Cuba is the stronghold of the Cubans.

No railroads connect the southern town with the western portion of the island. One little railroad winds up through the mountains.

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southern coast toward Cape Maisí forms a junction in the central and eastern parts with the range traversing the middle of the island, creating a series of sharp ridges and valleys. The latter are covered by verdure-clad elevations cut into sharp angles by well-defined ridges known as cuchillas or "knife-edged" crests, as distinguished from the series of peaks generally mentioned under the name of serras. The first mentioned range is called the Sierra de Copey, which extends to the southward to the mouth of the Rio Grande, and is the best defined mountain chain on the island. From Cape Cruz it rises first in a succession of terraces, and soon attains the altitude of 5,140 feet at the crest of the Ojo del Gallo, where the vegetation is dense and luxuriant. This increase in elevation is continued as the crest of the sierra is followed eastward until it culminates at a height of 8,320 feet, after which it descends to the level of the sea. Beyond more in the celebrated Blue Peak, the highest point of the island itself was beneath the clouds. From the summit of the range between Cape Cruz and Santiago de Cuba we see the valleys of the Matanzas and Sagua River, and the mountains of the Cauto as far as the vicinity of Bayamo, giving an undulating character to the south side of the famous tropical valley. From the Tuquesa, Guatupo and San Juan rivers, the waters are dropped, and that of Sierra de Cobre, the

lower range," is substituted. Here are found the copper mines of Santiago de Cuba. In the Sierra de Cobre range, a short distance east of Santiago de Cuba, is the famous Cobre Vieja copper mine, the ore averaging 150 feet in length by 45 feet in width, peaking 3,300 feet above the sea, and known as La Gran Piedra. In this vicinity the soil is rich in copper, and the vegetation is composed of plants that have emerged with the main basaltic of the province, coming from San Antonio on the west and the dome of the Cuchillas becomes now the dome of the dominating orographical feature; while a great number of plants are found together and grow in the same waters into four separate divisions. This formation is broken and precipitous country, occupying as does a large portion of an entire province, and has caused it to be the least known, as it is the least cultivated of any of the political divisions of the island. Towns were once a poor, but the great diversity of products, due to the rapid change in the climate which is caused by the difference in elevation, makes the region one of the most interesting in the world. The vegetation is of a rich and natural character, surrounded by an ever verdant foliage, combined with numerous species of flowering orchids.

their tropical flowers, and with animal life all its gayest colors, present a picture such as will be seen nowhere else on the globe."

Santiago de Cuba was the first permanent settlement made in Cuba, soon after Diego Velazquez landed at Haraeco, Santiago, in 1492. In November, 1473, fifty-three members of the crew of the American steamer *Virginius* were taken to the island, and were there so narrowly averted, Santiago de Cuba has some notable buildings. The cathedral was built in 1522. Owing to the town's inclosed situation the atmosphere is close and stifling and the place is not healthy. It is the second commercial port in the island. Its principal exports are liquors, shag, cocoa, coffee, tobacco, guavas and pineapples. The daily yield of the copper mines in the place is several tons. American capitalists own the iron mines.

Our Newest Collier Is the Nero.

WASHINGTON, June 7.—The Navy Department is advertising to its practice of sending colliers to purchase for the navy. The first collier to be purchased for the navy was the *Nero*, which was launched at San Francisco to accompany the monitor *Monsieck* to Manila, was rechristened *Nero*. Other colliers have been named *Cesar*, *Hannibal*

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